

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Request to Renew an External Contract  
(Soviet Astronomy)

REFERENCE : External Research Program, Fiscal Year 1964  
for the Office of Scientific Intelligence

1. PURPOSE

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25X1A5a1 The purpose of this memorandum is to request the renewal for a period of one year of an external contract with the [REDACTED] for the review and evaluation of intelligence information classified through SECRET on Soviet astronomical research activities with probable emphasis on solar physics research activities.

2. BRIEF HISTORY AND FUTURE PLANS

This project was initiated when it became clear that Soviet astronomers were providing support to the Soviet space program. At first, emphasis was placed on the investigation of the moon and planets corresponding to the emphasis on lunar and planetary probes early in the Soviet space program. More recently, it has been apparent that solar astronomy has become a priority area both in connection with geophysical research, because of the importance of solar terrestrial relations, and in connection with the manned exploration of space, because of the possible dangers of solar flare effects to astronauts. Thus the project has required capabilities in a number of subfields of astronomy. Personnel with capabilities in many of the most important of the subfields were not available within the agency, and therefore a qualified external contractor was obtained. The project has met its intelligence objectives in a very satisfactory way. The personnel situation within the agency still requires the use of an external contractor. This was originally proposed as a continuing project, and the level of Soviet activity in the fields covered by the project indicates that it should be continued in the future. During the next year contractor plans to report on areas not previously covered and report new developments in all areas of solar physics. New developments could include the launching by the USSR of a solar observation satellite or a major break through in the prediction of solar flares. The contractor is also recruiting another solar physicist at the Ph.D. level who will participate in the project.

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GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

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3. REALIZED BENEFITS

The contractor has provided periodic reports on the quantity, quality, and significance of Soviet astronomical research. These reports have been used as background material to support OSI contributions to the NIS, NIE, and current intelligence programs, and to support opinions furnished various agencies and committees. Contractor's final reports will be used as the basis for comprehensive intelligence reports on Soviet activities.

4. ANTICIPATED CONTINUING BENEFITS

Future benefits are expected to be similar to those received in the past. The final reports on Soviet solar physics research should provide a valuable reference for future analysis of Soviet activities in this area.

5. BUDGET DATA

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Funds in the amount of [REDACTED] are provided for this contract in the OSI approved external research program for FY 1964 under item 684/18. The contract will run for a period of one year following the date it is signed.

6. SECURITY

The Agency association with the contract will continue to be unclassified. The contractor will be furnished with some documents classified through SECRET. The contractor's security facilities have been approved. Contract SECRET clearances have been obtained for contractor's personnel working on the project. These will continue on the project, and an additional request for a clearance will probably be made.

7. SPECIAL PROBLEMS

None

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**8. COMMITMENTS**

No commitments have been made concerning this renewal; however, [REDACTED] is aware of our continuing interest, and we requested them to submit a proposal.

**9. SPECIAL PRODUCTS**

None

**10. ACTION RECOMMENDED**

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That the expenditure of [REDACTED] from vouchered funds be authorized for this project. Funds in the amount of [REDACTED] are available from the FY 1964 operating budget for the Office of Scientific Intelligence.

FOIAb3b [REDACTED]

DONALD F. CHAMBERLAIN  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

**Enclosure:**

2 copies of contractor's proposal

**Distribution:**

- 2 - DD/S&T
- 1 - DD/S&T (Admin Staff)
- 1 - AD/SI
- 1 - Services Br.
- 1 - IPS/SI
- 2 - OO/C (info only)
- 2 - GSD/SI
- 4 - AEB/GSD/SI (A2/A137/WP 684/18/Extra)

OSI/GSD/ACB/[REDACTED] PJG/T261 (24 Dec 63)

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